

CODE OF ETHICS & PROCEDURAL PRINCIPLES FOR TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

(adopted at ABDA AGM, 21st January, 1998)

This "Code of Ethics and Procedural Principles" is intended as a guide for Tournament Directors - Club, Congress, State and National - with regard to both ethical and performance standards that the ABDA believes should be the goal of Directors in all types of duplicate bridge sessions and tournaments.

- A Tournament Director should aim to achieve equity for all players at all times and in all situations. Justice should not only be done, but it should also be seen to be done.
- It is desirable for a Tournament Director to carry a copy of *The Laws* with him when called to a table to give a ruling during play; if he fails to do so, a copy should always be readily available for reference during session time.
- Whenever he gives a ruling based on the direct application of Law, a Tournament Director, if requested, should be prepared to read the relevant clause or clauses from *The Laws*.
- A Tournament Director should endeavour to ensure that his rulings are fully explained to and understood by the players without them being required to ask the reasons for his rulings.
- When in **any** doubt about a ruling, a Tournament Director must be prepared to seek advice from other experienced directors or (when appropriate) experienced players.
- Before making a bridge judgement ruling, a Tournament Director should, if possible, seek advice from another director and/or (particularly when another Director is not available) uninvolved, experienced players of an appropriate standard: this is both to test his bridge judgement and to ensure that he has not overlooked something obvious. It will often be appropriate to delay giving a final ruling on bridge judgement decisions - particularly for a playing Director - until the end of the session.
- When a playing Tournament Director has a ruling in which his side is involved, he must ensure that no suggestion of bias is possible. Whenever practicable, he should find an alternate Director to give the ruling. When this is not possible (as is often the case), he might well consider ruling against his side and then appealing, especially in cases where a judgement decision is concerned. Only if, after consulting, he is quite sure of his ground should he make a judgement ruling in his side's favour.

If it is a book ruling, then he may give it, but he should then exhibit a greater degree of care in explaining the thought processes.

- In the interests of "maintain[ing] the progress of the game" (Law 82), a Tournament Director shall always give a prompt ruling when called to the table in technical ("book") situations, even though it may not be possible for him to explain the ruling fully at the time on the basis of the relevant Law/s. In such cases, the Tournament Director is responsible for confirming the correctness or otherwise of his ruling as

soon as practicable and then for making any appropriate adjustments to ensure equity for the players involved.

- If a Tournament Director realises that he/she has given an incorrect ruling, he/she shall do all in his/her power to correct that ruling (in accordance with the requirements of Law 82) promptly.
- A Tournament Director shall be prepared to offer the right of appeal to any player whenever that is appropriate - and shall be aware of the procedures needed to organise an appeals committee hearing in his/her directing environment(s).
- A Tournament Director is the official representative of the Sponsoring Organisation and is therefore responsible for ensuring that their policies and regulations are implemented.
- A Tournament Director should ensure that he is fully aware of and conversant with any or all Supplementary Regulations published by the Sponsoring Organisation.
- Whenever practicable, a Tournament Director shall choose movements which are equitable for all participants.
- A Tournament Director shall accept responsibility for publishing scores promptly after any session, even where he has delegated responsibility for the scoring of the session or event. Results shall be deemed to be provisional until the Director and/or the authorised scorer has endorsed the publication of checked scores. Final, confirmed results should be published before the start of the next session, when possible.
- A Tournament Director shall be thoroughly well prepared and well organised for the type of session/event for which he/she has accepted responsibility.
- A Tournament Director shall remain courteous at all times in all dealings with players.
- A Tournament Director shall not consume alcohol on the floor of an event during session time and shall not direct any session when in any way under the influence of alcohol.
- A Tournament Director shall at all times be neatly dressed.
- A Tournament Director should consistently promote the principle of Active Ethics. In particular, he should always be impartial and not exhibit favouritism towards any player or players.